GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1336
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
ERADICATION OF LEPROSY
MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of leprosy patients in the country at present;

(b) whether the number of leprosy patients has increased in the country during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to control this disease in the country; and

(e) the extent to which the Government have achieved success in eradicating it?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): The number of leprosy patients on record in the country, as per reports received from the States/UTs, till the end of December, 2002 is 3.41 lakh.

(b): No, Sir. In fact there has been a declining trend in so far as the total number of leprosy patients are concerned.

(c): Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d): The Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) to check the disease in the country. NLEP is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme with the objectives of achieving the elimination of Leprosy i.e. prevalence of less than 1 case per 10,000 population at National level by the year 2004-05.

The details of the programme are:

(i) Decentralization and institutional development under which State Leprosy Societies have been formed in 27 major States and District Leprosy Societies in all the districts in the country.

(ii) Integration of leprosy services with General Health Care.

(iii) Two rounds of Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaigns (MLEC) for case detection throughout the country during 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(iv) Early Leprosy Case Detection and Free Multi Drug Therapy to all patients through all Government Primary Health Centres, dispensaries and Hospitals in the country.

(v) Special Action Projects for Elimination of Leprosy (SAPEL) and Leprosy Elimination Campaign (LEC) for difficult / inaccessible/under served rural and urban areas, respectively.

(vi) Intensified Public Awareness Campaigns.

(vii) Training of Health Staff in disability prevention and care.

(viii) Training of General Health Care Staff in leprosy.

(e): The National Leprosy Eradication Programme has been successful in reducing the prevalence of leprosy from 57.6. cases per

10,000 population in 1981 to only 4.2 cases per 10,000 population by March, 2002. 12 States and UTs have already achieved elimination of leprosy whereas 6 more States and UTs are close to achieve elimination. Since the introduction of Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) in 1983, India has cured 10.08 million leprosy patients by March, 2002.There is further decline of leprosy situation in the country and as per reports received till December, 2002, the prevalence rate of leprosy is only 3.2 cases per 10,000 population.